



May  
2015

## West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

Although it was only a matter of time, it was still unwelcome news to discover that the Emerald Ash Borer was found just west of our City. Fortunately, our staff has been preparing for the arrival of this pest for the last two years, and we have adopted an excellent plan created by our Parks and Recreation Department.

To learn more about how the City will be treating trees on public property, see the article on page 2 of this newsletter. For guidance on how to care for ash trees on private property, visit [www.wdm.iowa.gov/EAB](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/EAB).

### *New Spring Cleanup rules*

In response to feedback we've received about the mess scavengers were making in our neighborhoods, we've revised the rules for our Annual Spring Cleanup that takes place on your regular garbage collection day during the week of June 1–5. This year, we're asking residents not to set out bagged or boxed items since these can be placed in your carts year-round. We're also asking people to set out only as much as will fit in the bed of a pickup truck. For details, see the information on page 8.

### *Special Census testing has begun*

I've mentioned in past issues that we're conducting a Special Census in West Des Moines, and I'm happy to report that many of you have applied for temporary jobs with the Census Bureau. Testing of potential candidates has begun, and I want to encourage you to let your family and friends know that we're still taking applications. Visit [www.wdm.iowa.gov/Census](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/Census) for more details.

### *Smart911 comes to our area*

Finally, I want to make sure our residents know about Smart911, a service now available in Polk County that allows you to create a free Safety Profile for your household that includes any information you want first responders to have in the event of an emergency. I encourage you to take a moment and visit [www.Smart911.com](http://www.Smart911.com) to complete your free Safety Profile today.



## Unfortunately, the Emerald Ash Borer has arrived

Officials with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) have confirmed that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been found in a residential area immediately adjacent to the city limits of West Des Moines.

John Olds, Urban Forestry Supervisor with the City of West Des Moines, says that his City has been preparing for the arrival of the pests for the last two years. He said an initial EAB Management Plan was developed in 2013 and modified last year to reflect advancements in treatment opportunities that can protect an ash tree for approximately two years.

He said City staff recently conducted an inventory of all the City's ash trees on public property, including those in street right-of-way areas, street medians, parks and city facilities. Forestry staff have determined that well over 60% (600+) of all public ash trees in West Des Moines are eligible for preventive treatment. Chemical applications will be injected into the trees starting in late May. The trees selected for treatment have all satisfied the City's criteria that considered the overall health of the tree, the tree's size and limb structure, and potential safety risks.

"For some of our larger ash trees, it's actually more expensive to have them removed than to treat them," Olds said. "So we did an assessment of all

our ash trees, and the trees that are in poor health or pose a possible safety hazard to residents or our infrastructure will be removed in the next 3-4 years."

**Ash trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner.** Olds said the first step is to confirm that the trees are indeed ash trees.

Signs that a tree may be infected include: thinning or dying branches in the top of the tree; excessive woodpecker activity; sprouts on the tree trunk; and/or the presence of EAB larvae or adult insects. Olds urged property owners to consult with

their local tree care company for advice on removal or treatment options.

For additional information about the emerald ash borer, visit the Forestry section of the City's website at [www.wdm.iowa.gov/EAB](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/EAB).



*This photo shows an emerald ash borer and a few of the creamy white larvae that are responsible for the tree damage in the photo below.*



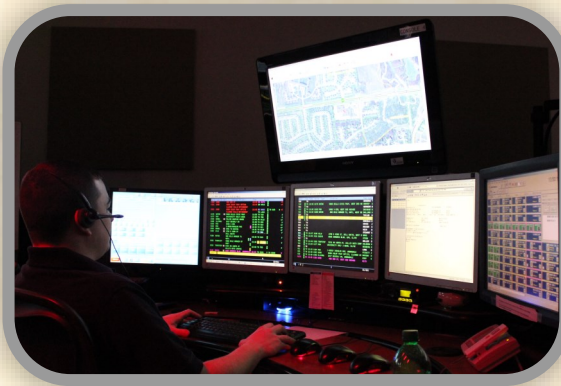
*In this ash limb that has been scraped, it's easy to see where the larvae created s-shaped feeding areas or galleries under the tree's bark.*



# Get Smart and protect your family with Smart911

## What is Smart911?

Smart 911 is a service that allows residents to create a **free Safety Profile** for their household that includes any information they want 9-1-1 and first responders to have in the event of an emergency. If anyone in that household dials 9-1-1 from a phone associated with their Safety Profile, that profile is immediately displayed to the 9-1-1 call taker who can provide additional information to facilitate an effective response. At a time when seconds count, Smart911 provides details in an emergency that could mean the difference between life and death.



## How can I sign up?

Anyone can sign up by visiting the Smart 911 website at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com) and creating a Safety Profile for your household. Your profile gives 9-1-1 valuable information about yourself, family members, your home, pets and even vehicles that will display automatically on the 9-1-1 call taker's screen when you make an emergency call. You control what information is in your profile, but officials suggest listing such things as medications, medical conditions, the layout of your house, if anyone has a disability or mobility issues, or if someone in your household has hearing issues or Alzheimer's. Some families even include photos of their children which

can help first responders locate who's in the home or respond to a missing child report.

Sgt. Brent Kock with the West Des Moines Police Department said that even the simplest of details can help officers during an emergency.

"From knowing the access points to the home, whether there is a pet we need to be aware of

when approaching or entering the home, or just knowing the name of the person in distress, all this can enhance the safety of our citizens and our officers," he said.

## Is my profile secure?

Smart911 is private and secure, and is only made avail-

able to 9-1-1 when an emergency call is made. The system utilizes the same encryption technologies used by leading financial institutions, and the information in your profile is never sold, rented or shared with third parties for their promotional use. The only people who see your information are the public safety officials responding to your emergency.

Smart911 has been adopted in 38 states and over 1,000 communities. Safety profiles will work in any of these locations if you call 9-1-1. In Iowa, Smart911 is also available in Dubuque County.



# Smart911.com<sup>TM</sup>

## Temporary Special Census jobs still available!

The City of West Moines is still recruiting residents to help with our Special Census.

Temporary jobs are available for Census takers, office staff and supervisors. Visit our website at [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov) to fill out our online **Special Census Interest Form** and the **U.S. Census Bureau Application** (which you must print and drop off at City Hall, 4200 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des Moines). Paper copies of both documents also are available at City Hall.

The City is contacting people now to schedule a job-related test to determine if applicants are qualified for a Census job. If selected, you will be required to attend a training class and then given a work assignment that lasts approximately 3 to 8 weeks.

Census workers typically are paid \$13 to \$17 per hour, plus mileage and paid training. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age, live within 20 miles of WDM, and willing to work a minimum of 20 hours per week when residents are home, usually during evenings and weekends.

### *In our community, everyone counts*

Census takers (called enumerators) will soon be going door-to-door in our neighborhoods to collect a few facts about each member of your household for our Special Census.

#### **Why a Special Census?**

If Census results show that our population has increased, we'll be eligible to receive additional funds for road construction and maintenance projects.

#### **What questions will they ask?**

Census workers will be asking questions such as the name, age, gender and relationship of each person in your household. They also will ask about race and Hispanic origin, and whether you own or rent your home or apartment. All Census workers will carry a U.S. Census Bureau photo ID badge.

#### **Is my information confidential?**

Yes! The information you share is confidential, and the law applies whether or not you are a U.S. citizen. No one will ever be asked for other identifying information, such as your Social Security number or checking account/financial information.

**So when someone knocks on your door, please  
cooperate and answer their questions!**



## It's May, so it's time for National Public Works Week

Each year, the West Des Moines Public Works Department holds a celebration for *National Public Works Week*. This popular free event will once again be located at the Valley Junction Farmer's Market on Thursday, May 21, 2015, from 4-7 p.m.

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn about the WDM Public Works Department. Kids love the chance to sit in the machinery, get their faces painted and play some games ... all for *free*.

***Bring the kids and join us on May 21!***



## West Des Moines leads the way in innovation

### Public Works receives ITS Heartland Project Award

Jim Dickinson, WDM Traffic Engineer, recently attended the ITS Heartland Annual Meeting to accept the **"Best of ITS Heartland Project Award"** for West Des Moines' adaptive traffic control system. ITS Heartland is a chapter of ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) America, an organization that strives to improve the quality of life through advanced transportation technologies and communication. The Heartland chapter includes members from Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

### City of West Des Moines receives the 2015 Environmental Impact Award

Metro Waste Authority partners with the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Des Moines Water Works, and the Center on Sustainable Communities to honor those who continually demonstrate environmentally sustainable practices. The City of West Des Moines has been selected to receive the **2015 Environmental Impact Award** in the Civic-Government category. Residents can be proud that West Des Moines is a leader in the practice of environmentally sustainable solutions.

## May showers bring June flowers and vegetables

### *West Des Moines Human Services Garden Program*

Income-eligible residents of West Des Moines have the opportunity to grow their own vegetable and flower gardens with the help of the West Des Moines Human Services Garden Program. Through May 28, West Des Moines Human Services will partner with the Normandy Plaza Hy-Vee at Railroad and Grand to offer qualifying households a \$25 voucher to purchase vegetable and flower starter plants. Garden tilling is also available. Please call 222- 3660 for office hours or to learn more.



## Discounted pool passes available for low-income households



Reduced rate season pool passes are available to income-eligible West Des Moines households.

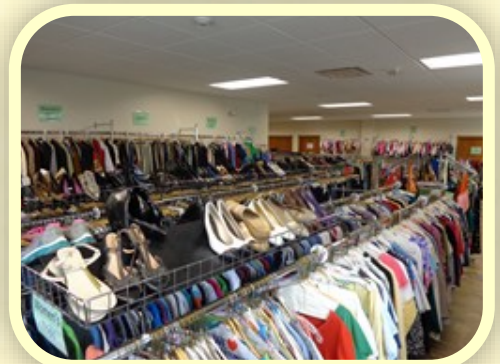
If you know of a West Des Moines family in need, please ask them to stop by the West Des Moines Human Services office at 139 6<sup>th</sup> Street to see if they might be eligible for discounted passes to the following pools: Holiday Park Aquatic Center, Valley View Aquatic Center, and Clive Aquatic Center.

Call 222-3660 for office hours or to learn more.

## Clothing Closet needs spring and summer clothing

With the change of seasons, the Clothing Closet is in need of new or gently used **spring and summer clothing and shoes** as well as small household items including **towels, blankets, sheets and kitchen items**.

Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 139 6<sup>th</sup> Street in West Des Moines. Donation receipts are available. Questions? Call 222-3663.





## Visit our drop-off box to dispose of unused and expired medications

If you need to find a place to dispose of unused or expired medications, look no further! With funding from the Dallas County Foundation, the West Des Moines Police Department was able to purchase a MedReturn Unit and install it in the front lobby of the West Des Moines Law Enforcement Center at 250 Mills Civic Parkway.

This unit allows residents to properly dispose of unused or expired medications 24 hours a day. Since it was installed last April, residents have disposed of over 1,000 pounds of medication. And although the Iowa Legislature recently made changes that allow citizens to return medications back to pharmacies for disposal, the amount of medications placed in the MedReturn Unit has continued to increase.

Items that are **accepted** in the MedReturn box include prescriptions, prescription patches, over-the-counter medications, ointments, creams and

lotions, vitamins and supplements, medications for pets, and liquid medication in leak proof plastic containers.

Items **not accepted** include inhalers, needles (sharps), glass bottles, aerosol cans, thermometers, bloody or infectious waste, hydrogen peroxide and rubbing alcohol.

The investment made by the Dallas County Foundation and the West Des Moines Police Department to purchase the MedReturn has been a success. Not only is it keeping drugs out of the hands of our youth and potential abus-

ers, but it also provides an environmentally safe and secure way to dispose of prescription medications.



## Celebrate National Police Week with us in May!

Bring the family and join us for our 2015 National Police Week celebration on **Wednesday, May 13!**

Opening ceremonies are from 5 to 5:30 p.m., and then from 5:30 to 8 p.m., you can visit our exhibits, get free bike helmets for the kids, explore public safety vehicles, play games, and enjoy delicious free food at our picnic. All activities will take place at the Law Enforcement Center at 250 Mills Civic Parkway.

# 2015 Solid Waste Events for WDM Citizens

## Annual Spring Cleanup is June 1–5 on your regular trash collection day!

May 21	National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 to 7 p.m., Valley Junction Farmer's Market
June 1 – 5	Annual Spring Cleanup — On your regular trash day. <b><i>See new details below!</i></b>
June 27	Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, City Hall, 8 a.m. to Noon
Sept. 12	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-Off and Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. to Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
Nov. 28	Yard Waste Pick-Up Ends
Dec. 28 — Jan. 8	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

### Annual Spring Cleanup (June 1–5) has a new look this year

In order to reduce the amount of litter in our neighborhoods during the clean-up event, we've changed a few things so that it will be easier for you to keep your yard free of debris.

**Garbage limit:** You can set out as much as will fit in the bed of one pickup truck.

**Weight limit:** If it's reasonable that two people could lift an item, then it's accepted.



**No bagged/boxed items:** Since these items can be put in your garbage cart year-round or collected with a \$1 Extra Trash Sticker, these items will not be collected. This change will help us eliminate litter and the mess scavengers create in your neighborhood.

**ACCEPTED ITEMS:** Mattresses, couches, end tables, fans, lamps, grills (no propane)

**ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:** Appliances, building materials, concrete, tires, yard waste, household hazardous waste

*Spring Cleanup is your opportunity to get rid of items that do not fit in your garbage cart. It is available to all West Des Moines residents who are eligible for City provided solid waste collection.*



## Construction Updates



Spring in Iowa ... the grass is turning green, the birds are chirping, the days are getting warmer, and construction projects are well under way!

Remember to drive slowly through construction zones for your safety and the safety of our workers. Information on construction projects is available on the WDM website in the Public Works Section, [Construction Updates](#).

### 2015 HMA Resurfacing Project

The contractor has completed all concrete patching prior to the asphalt paving that should start toward the end of May.

### 2014 HMA Resurfacing Project

The contractor recently completed the restoration for the work that occurred last fall.

### 2014 PCC Patching Project

The contractor is nearing completion on the patching work for Mills Civic Parkway and will be moving to the last segment on Fuller Road in the area of the Jordan Creek bridge. They also are working on turf restoration.

### 2014 PCC Reconstruction Project (Vine Street)

The contractor is preparing to start work on the 800 block of Vine Street. They will be installing storm sewer and paving that area. They also are performing sod restoration on the other portion of the project.

### 2015 PCC Reconstruction Project (2<sup>nd</sup> Street)

This project will be reconstructing 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street. Work is scheduled to begin in early summer.

